

CORBICULA ANDERSONIANA, n. sp.

Rather small, thin, subequilateral, transversely ovate, tumid; medium-sized specimens closely resemble in shape *C. inæquilateralis*, Prime, both sides are obtusely rounded, epidermis bright green, interior violet, paler near the margin. This species is quite distinct from the other Burmese and Indian ones, it is, however, exceedingly close to *C. tumida*, Desh., P. Z. S., 1854, from Borneo, as figured by Issel.

Type from Momein in Yunnan: long. $20\frac{1}{2}$, lat. 12 mil.

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IV.—*Descriptions of three new Species of Birds of the Genera Pellorneum, Actinura, and Pomatorhinus; lately collected in the neighbourhood of Saddy, Assam, by MR. M. J. OGLE of the Topographical Survey.—By Major H. H. GODWIN-AUSTEN, F. R. G. S., F. Z. S., &c.*

(Received March 29;—Read April 4, 1877.)

## 1. PELLORNEUM PECTORALIS, n. sp.

*Desc.*—Head to nape dull dark chestnut; back, wings, and tail umber-brown, the last indistinctly barred and with narrow pale tips, the outer primaries edged paler. Lores and frontal feathers pale, tipped with pale black, extending as an obscure supercilium to the nape, where the feathers become broadly dingy white on their upper web, dark brown on the lower, those on the back of the neck are broadly black-centred. The ear-coverts are umber-brown, darker behind, forming a crescentic margin again bordered lighter. The chin is pure white for three-quarters of an inch; a dark gorget of broadly black-centred feathers then crosses the upper breast, the centering of the feathers becoming very large, oblong, and conspicuous on the elongate feathers of the sides of the neck, but paler and less defined on the flanks. From the gorget all beneath is pale rufescent ochre. The under tail-coverts are dark, bordered with white.

Legs pale ochre. Irides vermilion.

|   | Wing. | Tail. | Tarsus. | Bill at front. |
|---|-------|-------|---------|----------------|
| ♂ | 3·0"  | 3·0"  | 1·12"   | 0·70"          |
| ♀ | 3·0   | 3·0   | 1·0     | 0·63.          |

HAB.—Saddy, Assam (M. J. Ogle).

This species is nearest and closely allied to *Pellorneum Mandellii*, W. Blanford, described from Darjeeling, which is the same as Hodgson's *P. Nipalensis*, a MS. name never published. It is a larger bird as regards wing, and the legs are more robust. The principal difference lies in the far larger extent of the dark streaking on the sides of the neck: the dark centred feathers are longer and broader than in *P. Mandellii*, the black oblong spots

being 0·4 in. by 1·3 in. in this new form as against 0·3 by 1·0, while those on the upper nape are bordered with white above; the top of the head is dark chestnut, opposed to a dull rufous umber in the Darjiling species. Yet the greatest departure is in the abrupt termination of the white chin, succeeded by the ochraceous tint of the rest of the under parts, while the black centerings of the feathers are so broad and closely distributed as to form a decided dark gorget, whence they spread away down the sides of the breast. The feathers of the head and nape are more lengthened and fuller than in the other species.

We appear to have in this genus—all near allies:—

1. PELLORNEUM RUFICEPS,\* Swainson.

South India.

2. PELLORNEUM MANDELLII, W. Blanford.

Sikkim, and the Garo and Khasi Hills.

3. PELLORNEUM PECTORALIS, G-A.

Eastern Assam.

4. PELLORNEUM TICKELLI, Blyth.

*P. minor*, Hume, S. F., 1873, p. 298, from Tenasserim.

*P. subochraceum*, Swinhoe, A. M. N. H., 1871, p. 257, also from Tenasserim.

Burmah and Tenasserim.

I cannot help thinking that the two last names are only synonyms. In the list of Birds from Tenasserim (Stray Feathers, Vol. II. p. 476.), the very country whence Tickell sent his specimens to Blyth, *P. minor* is recorded as common, but *P. Tickellii* as not yet obtained. Comparing specimens lately received from Tenasserim with the original description and with a specimen in the Indian Museum (also from Tenasserim) which there is every reason for believing to be one of the original types, I can arrive at no other decision but that *P. minor* and *P. subochraceum* are nothing else than *P. Tickellii*; nor is it likely that two distinct species whose dimensions are so exceedingly close are to be found in so limited an area.

## 2. ACTINURA OGLEI, n. sp.

*Desc.*—Above rich umber-brown with a sienna tinge, strongly rusty on the head and nape, the soft feathers of the back and rump are very finely and indistinctly crossed with narrow bars. A well-developed frontal band of white having the shafts of its feathers black, merges into a well-defined pure white supercilium and is continued over the black ear-coverts and down the side of the neck, where the white feathers become bordered with black, the supercilium thus terminating in scattered spots. This white supercilium is bordered above with black. Lores dark, chin pure white,

\* Is given in Blyth's List of the Birds of Burmah, but I doubt if true *P. ruficeps* is found out of Southern India.

breast grey, flanks and abdomen dull earthy brown. Wings and tail rich umber narrowly barred with black-brown, the tail having about 24 such bars. Irides crimson lake; legs and feet umber-brown.

Length about 6", wing 2·8", tail 2·8", tarsus 1·1", bill at front 0·60".

The bill, which is stronger and deeper than in any other species of the genus, is black above, grey below.

HAB.—Shot on Manbúm Tila, on the Tenga Pani river, near Saddya, at 800 ft. (M. J. Ogle).

This is another new form for which we have to thank Mr. Ogle, after whom I have much pleasure in naming it. It is one of the most beautiful and distinct forms of the genus, its white chin and superciliary stripe being a most conspicuous departure from the type of coloration possessed by the other species.

*Actinura Oglei* in the coloration of the head and nape, and in its white throat, has remarkable affinities for *Turdinus guttatus*, Tickell, from Tenasserim. This last bird can hardly find a place in the genus *Turdinus* as exemplified by such forms as *T. brevicaudatus* and its allies. In the stout legs and feet it is akin to *Actinura*, and in the form of the nostrils it is also like *Actinura Oglei*. The principal departure to be noted is in the absence of barring on the wings and tail, but this is to be discerned, though it is indistinct, and is noted by Tickell in his original description, when the barring was no doubt more apparent than it now is in the faded type specimen in the Indian Museum, Calcutta. In *A. Oglei* this barring, I notice, is far less conspicuous than in *A. Egertoni*, *A. Waldeni*, &c. Altogether these two birds present a most instructive case of close generic relationship.

### 3. POMATORHINUS STENORHYNCHUS, n. sp.

*Desc.*—Above pale umber-brown with an ochraceous tinge, richer brown on the head, a more umber tint on the tail and wings, a narrow pure white supercilium from base of bill over the eye to the ear-coverts, but not extending further. Lores black, passing under the eye to the ear-coverts, which are grey-black and bounded posteriorly with rufous brown. Chin and upper throat pure white, breast and abdomen pale rufescent, flanks and under tail-coverts pale ochraceous brown.

Bill very long, tapering, curved, and much compressed; bright orange-red. Legs and feet horny grey.

♂ Length abt. 8"; wing 4"; tail 4·4"; tarsus 1·35"; bill at front 1·45",

♀ " " 3·25; " 3·9; " 1·20; " 1·15.

The female is thus very decidedly smaller than the male.

HAB.—Obtained on Manbúm Tila, on Tenga Pani River, near Saddya at 800 ft. (M. J. Ogle).

This beautiful *Pomatorhinus*, which with the preceding species was discovered during the past cold season, in its very slender and narrow bill approaches the *Xiphorhamphus* form more than any other species of this group of Scimitar Babblers. In its coloration it reminds one of *Pom. ferruginosus*.

The claw of the inner toe is smaller than the outer, and all the claws are rounded off at the tip so as to have a peculiarly blunt gouge-like appearance.

The collection also contains several other new and interesting species, some of which I am unable to determine satisfactorily out here, but which shall be described in more detail in my next List of Birds from the N. E. Frontier. I may mention (i) an *Abrornis* with yellow chin, which I propose naming *A. flavogularis*; (ii) *Chleuasicus atrosuperciliaris*, intermediate in size between *Paradoxornis ruficeps* and *Ch. ruficeps*; (iii) *Horornis fuliginiventer*, Hodg.; (iv) *Turdinus Williamsoni* quite distinct from the type of *T. brevicaudatus*, Blyth, which is of a strong rufous colour on the breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts; this rufous colour pervades the back, and the spotting on the secondaries is smaller and less conspicuous than in the specimen lately received from Saddya.

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